



# The Florida House of Representatives

**Chris Sprowls**  
**Speaker**

## NEWS RELEASE

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## Florida House of Representatives Passes Major Legislation Relating to COVID-19 Liability and Vaccine Scams

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (March 5, 2021)** — Today, the Florida House of Representatives successfully passed two major pieces of legislation off the Floor relating to COVID-19 liability for small businesses and protecting consumers against pandemic-related vaccine fraud.

“Today’s House passage of these COVID-focused measures is a victory for both Florida’s small businesses and consumers,” said Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor. “The Florida House remains dedicated to protecting people, and we are achieving exactly that by shielding hardworking entrepreneurs from lawsuits that could put them out of business and making it our mission to stop predatory behavior of scammers. I applaud Representatives McClure and Zika the passage of their legislation today and look forward to working with the Senate and Governor.”

HB 7, sponsored by Representative Lawrence McClure, R-Plant City, passed by a vote of 83-31. The legislation offers general liability protection for Florida businesses, schools, nonprofits and religious institutions making a good-faith effort to follow established federal, state and local guidelines. HB 7’s liability protections apply retroactively to any newly filed lawsuit. While HB 7 focuses on businesses and nonprofits, the Florida House will separately address COVID liability protections for health care providers and facilities, including nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

“This is a once in a 100-year pandemic, and the overwhelming public necessity of Florida’s economy asks us as a legislative body to consider that, to raise the standard,” said Representative McClure. “There is a real fear among the business community of frivolous lawsuits as they take appropriate actions to keep their employees and customers safe. HB 7 is a step in the right direction to keep Florida’s economy moving and champion those who have done the right thing. I would like to thank Speaker Sprowls for his leadership on this issue and thank my colleagues for passing this bill.”

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HB 9, sponsored by Representative Ardian Zika, R-Land O' Lakes, passed by a vote of 113-0. The legislation authorizes civil remedies and establishes criminal penalties for those intending to defraud regarding the availability of or access to a COVID vaccine.

“Floridians should not be victims of fraudulent vaccine promises, especially during a pandemic,” said Representative Zika. “HB 9 sends a clear message to Florida’s consumers: We have your back. I thank Speaker Sprowls for his swift action on this legislation and am grateful to my colleagues for their support as we protect Floridians during this pandemic.”

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